REPORT, &c.

NEW LONDON, *Jan.* 16, 1788.

AT a numerous and reſpectable Meeting of the Governors and Subſcribers to the NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION among Proteſtant Diſſenters, for the education of their Miniſters and Youth, THOMAS ROGERS, Eſq. was called to the Chair; and the following Report from the Committee was read: viz.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Committee are happy in the opportunity which this annual Meeting affords them, of congratulating you on the progreſs which has been made in the eſtabliſhment of the NEW ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

They now beg leave to inform you, that ſince the laſt Meeting their attention hath been directed to a variety of circumſtances, which were preparatory to their opening the Seſſion in the building purchaſed for the uſe of the Inſtitution, on the 29th of September laſt.

The accommodation, inſtruction and diſcipline of the Students, entruſted to their care, were objects of principal importance to the credit and proſperity of this Inſtitution; and, therefore, your Committee have been ſolicitous to adopt ſuch meaſures for theſe purpoſes as ſhould beſt correſpond to the liberality of its founders, and to the reaſonable expectations of the Public.

Your Committee, agreeably to the inſtructions given them at the laſt general Meeting, contracted for erecting a new

a new wing at the eaſt end of the collegiate building, according to a plan prepared by Mr. Blackburn. This wing, which will contain very commodious apartments for 30 ſtudents, is in conſiderable forwardneſs; and will be in every reſpect fit for uſe at the commencement of the next Seſſion.

It was their intention to have contracted, at the ſame time, for building a houſe for the reſident tutor; but ſome unforeſeen difficulties prevented the accompliſhment of this part of their deſign. They are now provided with a plan and eſtimates for this purpoſe, and they hope, if no unexpected occaſion of delay occurs, that this building will be compleated before the end of the ſummer.

The Committee prepared for opening the ſeſſion in September laſt by furniſhing the houſe, allotting ſuitable apartments to the ſtudents in the old building, and committing the management of the family to Mr. and Mrs. Kiddle. They alſo prevailed with Dr. Rees, to reſide in apartments at a ſmall diſtance from the college. They formed a ſyſtem of internal government, which, after mature deliberation, appears to them likely to preſerve the morals and to promote the improvement of the ſtudents. They appointed a ſuperintending committee, in order to inſpect and enforce the obſervance of the laws and orders which they had enacted for the government of the houſe. And moreover, they have added to the liſt of Tutors, the Rev. G. C. Morgan, who has engaged, with proper aſſiſtance from the other tutors, to ſupply that department of ſcience which was left vacant.

The courſe of education commenced at the opening of the ſeſſion, and is regularly continued in the manner announced to the public, in the advertiſement which the Committee have lately circulated.

The number of ſtudents is fourteen; eight of whom are upon their own foundation, and ſix on the foundation of the Inſtitution. Two of the ſeven who were under the care of the Committee during the laſt ſeſſion, having finiſhed their academical ſtudies, were immediately invited to very reſpectable congregations in the country, where your Committee have the ſatisfaction to believe

believe they are filling ſtations of importance, with very diſtinguiſhed utility to the public, and honour to themſelves. To the remaining five, nine have been already added; being as many as the houſe in its preſent ſtate will admit. The Committee have the pleaſure to inform you, that the conduct and improvement of the young gentlemen have hitherto given great ſatisfaction, and afford reaſon to hope, that a ſpirit of laudable emulation will be tranſmitted from them to many others, who may wiſh to enjoy the benefits of this Inſtitution. The plan of the Inſtitution has been ſo favourably received, and the additional buildings have been ſo much approved by thoſe who have ſeen them, that the number of ſtudents cannot but very conſiderably increaſe. Of this your Committee have no doubt; and the proſpect encourages them to renew their exertions for compleating what has been already begun with ſo much reputation and advantage.

Your Committee have the pleaſure to add, that ſince the liſt of Subſcribers was publiſhed in April laſt, ſeveral conſiderable donations have been received, ſome of which have been appropriated by the donors to the completion of the buildings, and many names have been added to the number of annual governors. They have been alſo favoured with ſeveral valuable preſents of books for the uſe of the Inſtitution.

The Treaſurers report, that 352l. 7s. being the third part of 1057l. 1s. the amount of the unappropriated benefactions received in the laſt year, hath been paſſed or placed to the account of the permanent fund, in purſuance of the 3d reſolution of the 21ſt of July, 1786; and that the balance in the hands of the Treaſurers appears, by the audited account, to be 26l. 10s. 11d. There are alſo conſiderable ſums of the annual ſubſcriptions in different parts of the country which ſtill remain unpaid. Thoſe who conſider the great expence which has been already incurred in carrying on the new building, and in providing furniture and other articles, which the commencement of this Inſtitution required, will not be ſurpriſed that the balance ſhould be ſo ſmall; And yet much remains to be done to accompliſh the extenſive plan,

plan, propoſed by the liberal founders of this new college. The eaſt wing is to be compleated and furniſhed; the houſe of the reſident tutor is to be built; to the library many books muſt be added for immediate uſe; the philoſophical apparatus muſt be improved; and the ground round the houſe laid out in proper order: for theſe ſeveral purpoſes farther aſſiſtance will be neceſſary, which your Committee have not the leaſt doubt of obtaining.

In the mean time, many Gentlemen, who are deſirous of ſeeing the immediate accompliſhment of the objects above recited, and of encouraging the exertions of the Committee for this purpoſe, have engaged to lend conſiderable ſums to the Inſtitution upon intereſt. This mode of ſupply the Committee have agreed to adopt in preference to that of borrowing from the Truſtees of the permanent fund, the money belonging to that fund, and now inveſted in the 3 per cent. reduced bank annuities, and thereby changing the ſecurity of that fund. And this mode they adopt with the greater readineſs from their confidence in the ſucceſs of the undertaking, and the liberality of the public, which leave them little reaſon to doubt but that ſuch loans will be very ſpeedily repaid.

Some friends of the Inſtitution have already favoured the Committee with ſecond donations for the expreſs purpoſe of finiſhing their plan; and they are perſuaded, that the ſame laudable ſpirit, which has enabled them to proceed ſo far, will aid them in perfecting an Inſtitution of public and permanent utility, which they truſt will be the praiſe of future generations, and enſure to its founders the honour and happineſs of "everlaſting remembrance."

The Report having been read, the following Reſolutions were propoſed and unanimouſly agreed to, viz.

I. Reſolved, that the report of the proceedings of the Committee, now read, is approved; and that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Committee for their exertions in favour of the Inſtitution, and for the meaſures which they have purſued with reſpect

ſpect to the addition made to the collegiate houſe, by the erection of a wing, for the accommodation of ſtudents at the eaſt end of the ſame.

II. Reſolved, that the Committee be inſtructed to carry into execution the ſeveral meaſures pointed out in their report, and to take ſuch other ſteps as they ſhall judge moſt likely to promote the credit and ſucceſs of the Inſtitution.

III. Reſolved, that the mode of borrowing from the friends of the Inſtitution, the money that may be farther wanted, as recommended by the Committee in their report, is approved by this meeting, in preference to that of borrowing from the Truſtees of the permanent fund, the money belonging to that fund, now veſted in the 3 per cent. reduced bank annuities, and that the Committee be inſtructed to adopt the ſame: this Meeting, from the opinion which it entertains of the liberality of the public, and the confidence which it places in the ſucceſs of the Inſtitution, having the greateſt reaſon to hope that ſuch loans will be ſpeedily repaid.

IV. Six vacancies in the Committee having been declared, three of which are vacancies by reſignation, viz. B. Vaughan, G. Jeffery, and F. Kemble, Eſqrs. one by death, viz. Rev. E. Williams, and two by lot, viz. Rev. J. Simpſon, and William Scullard, Eſq. reſolved, that the following gentlemen be appointed to ſupply the ſaid vacancies, viz. Rev. Dr. Diſney, Michael Woodhull, Eſq. Mr. Sturch, Rev. Mr. Yates, Rev. J. Simpſon and William Scullard, Eſq. the two laſt being re-elected.

V. Reſolved, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to Thomas Rogers, Matthew Towgood, and Michael Dodſon, Eſqrs. for their paſt attention and trouble, as Treaſurers to the New Inſtitution; and that they be requeſted to continue their ſervices for the year enſuing.

VI. Reſolved,

VI. Reſolved, that the four Truſtees of the permanent fund belonging to the Inſtitution be permanent members of the general committee; and that the general Committee ſhall, from this time, conſiſt of 64 perſons. N. B. The preſent Truſtees are Mr. Joſeph Travers, Mr. John Towgood, Mr. William Eſdaile, and Mr. Thomas Rogers.

VII. Reſolved, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the auditors, viz. Mr Iſaac Thompſon, Mr William Stone, and Mr. Sturch, for their ſervices during the laſt year; and that Mr. Iſaac Thompſon, Mr. William Stone, and Mr. Daniel Turner, be requeſted to be auditors for the year enſuing.

VIII. Reſolved, that the following clauſe be inſerted in the reſolution of March 10, 1786, relating to the age of lay-ſtudents to be admitted into the Inſtitution, viz. "except under circumſtances, which in the opinion of the Committee ſhall warrant a departure from this rule ſo far as it limits the higheſt age of admiſſion to 18."

IX. Reſolved, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to thoſe gentlemen who have come forward with their loans for the purpoſe of raiſing the money, which may be neceſſary to compleat the buildings, and fully execute the meaſures propoſed, relating to the Inſtitution.

X. Reſolved, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman. Adjourned,

(Signed)

THOMAS ROGERS, Chairman.